

(a) To remove the preference given to those with European qualification for promotion to the Civil Surgeon's post, to keep their seniority intact by removing the discriminating increment now given to Assistant Surgeons with European qualifications, to raise their annual increments so as to enable them to reach the maximum within five years and to raise the pay and status of Assistant Surgeons to that of a District Munsiff.

(3) It is under the consideration of the Government.

(4) Yes.

(5) The report is confidential and cannot therefore be placed on the table.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—May I know whether the information published by some of the local papers that the opinion of the Surgeon-General is taken in this matter is correct? If the correspondence is not confidential I shall be glad to know it.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Surgeon-General's opinion is not taken. We have addressed him to know what the practice and rules there are.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I suppose you are taking it with an idea to see that it is worth following.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is not for his opinion. It is only to know the practice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Are remarks of Heads of Departments on questions like this generally treated as confidential? In this particular case, the Chief Medical Officer's remarks are treated as confidential.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is very difficult to answer a question like that. That would vary. Some reports would be published and some cannot be published. That is left to the discretion of the Government. We cannot have a hard-and-fast rule in the matter. It must vary with the circumstances.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Are there any particular reasons for treating this report as confidential?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The reason is that it cannot be published. What else can I say? If I go on dilating, it is as good as publishing the report.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Have not the Government promised to refer the matter to the Surgeon-General?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We have done it.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Did you get a reply?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

Circular prohibiting officers from approaching Council Members with their grievances.

82. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have issued a cir-

cular threatening their officers with severe punishment if any M. L. C. is approached by them regarding their grievances;

(2) if so, will a copy of the circular be placed on the table?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) No.

(2) Does not arise in view of answer to (1).

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know whether they have issued any circular?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Has it come to the notice of the Government that some similar instruction was given to their officers and that subsequently that instruction has been cancelled? Some such report appeared in the papers of Cochin State.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—They have not been given any instruction of the kind referred to by the Members. Instructions used to be given by Heads of Departments on many points.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Do the Government disapprove the non-official members of this House getting first hand information from the officers concerned?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I want notice.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Are we to take it that no circular or instruction was issued to Government officers that they should not approach Legislative Council Members for the purpose of improving their lot?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No, not issued.

Utilisation of three lakhs of rupees announced in His Highness the Maharaja's Banquet speech for medical relief.

83. Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the three lakhs of rupees mentioned in His Highness the Maharaja's Banquet speech been earmarked for any specific work in the medical line;

(b) if so, what is that work; and if not, how do the Government propose utilising it;

(c) will the Ayurvedic section of Medical treatment receive any portion of that amount; if so, what portion of it?

Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.—(a) and (b). Government have not yet formulated definite proposals regarding the distribution of the sum in detail. A scheme is under preparation.

(c) Vide answer to subdivisions (a) and (b).